

# HONENS MEDIA RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **HYPERION LABEL RELEASES PAVEL KOLESNIKOV'S DEBUT STUDIO RECORDING**

#### **PAVEL KOLESNIKOV: TCHAIKOVSKY | THE SEASONS**

CALGARY, AB, June 12, 2014—Pianist Pavel Kolesnikov, Honens Prize Laureate, makes his debut studio recording with Pyotr Tchaikovsky's *The Seasons Op 37b* and *Six Morceaux Op 19* on the Hyperion label (CDA68028).

Pavel Kolesnikov's progress since he became Laureate of the Honens Prize for Piano in 2012 has been remarkable by any standards. His Wigmore Hall debut at the beginning of this year generated critical acclaim and heartfelt audience appreciation. In his five-star review for *The Telegraph*, John Allison praised the Russian-born, London-based artist for his recital's "intelligent programming and outstanding pianism". He continues to enhance his reputation with the release of this all-Tchaikovsky recording on the Hyperion label.

*The Seasons*, commissioned in 1875 by the editor of the St Petersburg music magazine *Nuvelist*, is a cycle of twelve pieces depicting the months of the year, the first of which was published in January 1876 in the magazine, with pieces appearing in successive issues that year. Each piece was also given a poetic epigraph.

"I have always had the desire to record Tchaikovsky's piano music. Even when exploring pieces of his that are new to me, I am overwhelmed by a deep sense of familiarity, something that stems from the musical language itself. It feels as if I am an archaeologist discovering the most personal relics of my remote ancestors," said Pavel Kolesnikov. "I find that most of these pieces are somehow too subtle and fragile for large concert halls. This is private rather than public music, and even the simplest of these pieces require a truly personal, intimate connection between the performer and listener. I hope this can be achieved through a recording."



**PAVEL KOLESNIKOV**

**TCHAIKOVSKY: THE SEASONS**

Hyperion CDA68028

**The Seasons**

- 1 No 1 January, 'By the fireside': Moderato semplice ma espressivo
- 2 No 2 February, 'Carnival': Allegro giusto
- 3 No 3 March, 'The lark's song': Andantino espressivo
- 4 No 4 April, 'The snowdrop': Allegretto con moto e un poco rubato
- 5 No 5 May, 'White nights of May': Andantino
- 6 No 6 June, 'Barcarolle': Andante cantabile
- 7 No 7 July, 'Reaper's song': Allegro moderato con moto
- 8 No 8 August, 'Harvest': Allegro vivace
- 9 No 9 September, 'The hunt': Allegro non troppo
- 10 No 10 October, 'Autumn song': Andante doloroso e molto cantabile
- 11 No 11 November, 'Troika': Allegro moderato
- 12 No 12 December, 'Christmas': Tempo di valse

**Six morceaux**

- 13 Rêverie du soir: Andante espressivo
- 14 Scherzo humoristique: Allegro vivacissimo
- 15 Feuillet d'album: Allegretto semplice
- 16 Nocturne: Andante sentimentale
- 17 Capriccioso: Allegretto semplice – Allegro vivacissimo – Tempo I
- 18 Thème original et variations: Andante non tanto – Variations 1-12

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# **BACKGROUNDER**

## **PAVEL KOLESNIKOV**

Following Russian pianist Pavel Kolesnikov's Wigmore Hall debut in January 2014, *The Telegraph* gave his recital a rare five-star review and called it "one of the most memorable of such occasions London has witnessed in a while." Since becoming Prize Laureate of the Honens Prize for Piano in 2012, Kolesnikov has impressed listeners around the world. A live recording of his prize-winning performances, about which the *BBC Music Magazine* wrote "tremendous clarity, unflinching musicality and considerable beauty", was released on the Honens label in March 2013.

Significant recital and festival appearances resulting from the Honens Prize include Zankel Hall at Carnegie Hall, Berlin's Konzerthaus, the Louvre (Paris), Vancouver Recital Society, La Jolla Music Society, Spoleto Festival USA, Canada's Ottawa ChamberFest and Banff Summer Festival, and the United Kingdom's Plush Music Festival. Recent and upcoming orchestral appearances include Russia's National Philharmonic, London Philharmonic, Philharmonia Orchestra, Orquestra Sinfônica Brasileira and Toronto Symphony Orchestra.

Pavel Kolesnikov was born in Siberia into a family of scientists. He studied both piano and violin for ten years, before concentrating solely on the piano. He has studied at Moscow State Conservatory with Sergey Dorensky, at London's Royal College of Music with Norma Fisher, and at Brussels' Queen Elisabeth Music Chapel with Maria João Pires, resulting from the generous support of Mr. Christopher D. Budden, the RCM Scholarship Foundation and Hattori Foundation. He currently resides in London.

## **ABOUT HONENS**

Honens discovers, nurtures and presents Complete Artists—21<sup>st</sup> century pianists for 21<sup>st</sup> century audiences.

In 1991, philanthropist Esther Honens established the Honens International Piano Competition Foundation in her hometown of Calgary, Canada, with a gift of \$5 million. Her dream was to discover and launch the careers of the world's most promising pianists—a dream that has become a Canadian success story. Honens Laureates are acclaimed the world over and the triennial 'Search for the Complete Artist' awards the largest prize of its kind—\$100,000 and an artist development program valued at a half million dollars. Honens also presents Canada's International Festival of Piano each year in Calgary. Every third year, the prestigious Honens Prize for Piano is awarded during an extended nine-day festival. The Eighth Honens Prize will be awarded in 2015.